

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Instead of different viewpoints being broadcast when stations are individually owned, an owner of multiple stations can use his clout to push his own political agenda, which is a danger to our democracy.

There seems to be no attempt by Sinclair Broadcasting to give equal time to Bush's opponent. Given that this company's stations reach 24% of the nation's voters, this is a bald attempt by this company to sway the electorate in a particular direction. Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Citizens deserve an opportunity to hear opposing points of view on their local stations.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.